

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1, 7, and 13 and add Claims 19 through 21 to read as follows. A marked-up copy of Claims 1, 7, and 13, showing the changes made thereto, is attached. Note that all the claims currently pending in this application, including those not presently being amended, have been reproduced below for the Examiner's convenience.

Q1  
1. (Amended) An image input and output method in which image data is input from at least one image input section including at least one of an interface section for connecting to an external device and a reader section and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, including a printer section, said method comprising the steps of:

dividing image processing of one image processing unit to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section and into an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section;

managing execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

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2. An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein image data is input and stored in an image storage section for the image input job, and image data is read from the image storage section and output in the image output job.

3. An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit is input in the image input job.

4. An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein image data is output to at least one of a printer section printing an image and a transmission section transmitting an image in the image output job.

5. An image input and output method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of creating a plurality of management tables which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

6. An image input and output method according to Claim 5, wherein the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job are independently controlled in said controlling step according to the information held in the plurality of management tables.

7. (Amended) An image input and output apparatus comprising:  
input means for inputting image data from at least one image input section including at least one of an interface section for connecting to an external device and a reader section;

output means for outputting image data to at least one image output section including a printer section;

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters which regulate image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means;

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image processing of the one image unit processing unit expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by the obtaining means into an image input job in which image data is input by said image input means and an image output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

8. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored into said image storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means is output by said output means in the image output job.

9. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit is input by said input means in the image input job.

10. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein image data is output by said output means to at least one of a printer section printing an image and a transmission section transmitting an image.

11. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

12. An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein said controlling means independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of management tables.

13. (Amended) An image processing system in which image data input by at least one image input means, including at least one of an interface section for connecting to an external device and a reader means, is output by at least one image output means, including a printer means, comprising:

obtaining means for obtaining image processing parameters which regulate image processing of one image processing unit to be performed; and

controlling means for controlling an input of image data and output of image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by said obtaining means;

wherein said controlling means:

(i) divides the image process of the one image processing unit expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by the obtaining means into an image input job in which image data is input by the image input means and an image output job in which image data is output by said output means;

(ii) manages execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; and

(iii) after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

14. An image processing system according to Claim 13, further comprising storage means for storing image data,

wherein the image data input by said input means is stored in said image storage means in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means is output by said output means in the image output job.

15. An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein the image input means inputs at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, image

data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit.

16. An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein the image output means performs at least one of image printing according to image data and image-data transmission.

17. An image processing system according to Claim 13, wherein said controlling means comprises a plurality of management tables which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job.

18. An image processing system according to Claim 17, wherein said controlling means independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job according to the information held in the plurality of management tables.

--19. (New) An image input and output method according to Claim 1, wherein said interface section connects to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.

20. (New) An image input and output apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said interface section connects to a computer or a facsimile apparatus.